

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H3832**

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TO:	The Honorable Joe E. Brown, Chairman, House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Kate Billing, Bryce Wilson, Harry Bell, R.J. Stein		
DATE:	April 12, 2005	SBD:	2005360

AUTHOR:	Representative J.E. Smith	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	44-7-3410
SUBJECT:	Hospital Patient Safety Act		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

See Below

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

See Below

BILL SUMMARY:

This Bill requires that all hospital clinical staff and trainees wear badges containing certain identifying information and that hospitals provide patients with information regarding the role of medical students, interns, and resident physicians in patient care. It further establishes a patient's attending physician as the doctor in charge of the patient's care, requires nurses to call for or assist a patient in calling his or her attending physician in cases of patient concern, and requires hospitals provide a mechanism that is available at all times whereby patients can receive assistance for resolution of urgent care concerns.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Department of Health and Human Services

This Bill proposes hospitals implement procedural processes that are not Medicaid allowable expenses. The Department reports this Bill will have no impact on the General Fund of the State, or on Federal and/or Other Funds.

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

DMH operates three psychiatric hospitals and estimates this Bill will have an annual cost of \$328,910 to the General Fund. Section 44-7-3450 (B) indicates each hospital must provide a mechanism, available at all times, through which a patient may access prompt assistance for the resolution of urgent patient care concerns. Although it is uncommon for a patient in a psychiatric hospital to need an attending physician's opinion for a medical emergency, DMH would need to have an attending physician on call during evening and weekend hours at a rate of \$15 per hour to comply with the requirements of this section. Total additional salary is estimated at \$293,670 (3 hospital areas x \$15 per hour x 125.5 on call hours per week x 52 weeks per year) plus fringe benefits estimated at \$35,240.

Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)

The Department is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the provisions of this Bill. DHEC reports that the enforcement activities can be incorporated into their current licensing activities and would have a minimal impact on the agency.

Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)

MUSC estimates the cost of this Bill to be \$50,000 annually for information brochures and badges.

USC School of Medicine

USC reports this Bill will have no impact on the General Fund of the State, or on Federal and/or Other Funds.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

Enactment would have little or no impact on local expenditures.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Addy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Addy
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget